

## *Images of Belgium in the First World War*

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Clockwise from above: H-Sacks of flour in warehouse; J-Decorated flour sack; K-Belgian man; D-Belgian Relief ship; F-U.S. Food Administration Poster. All images courtesy of the Hoover Presidential Library.

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The flour sacks were used by various Belgian groups to make new clothing, accessories, pillows, bags, and other functional items. Many women chose to embroider over the mill logo and the brand name of flour, but entirely original designs were sometimes created on the sacks and then embroidered, painted, or stenciled on the fabric. Frequent additions to the flour sacks were Belgian messages of gratitude to the Americans; embellishments of lace; the Belgian and American flags; the Belgian lion; the Gallic cock; the American eagle; symbols of peace, strength, and courage; the Belgian colors of red, yellow, and black; and the American colors of red, white, and blue. Artists, in particular, used the flour sacks as the canvas background for creating original oil paintings.

<http://www.hoover.archives.gov/exhibits/collections/flour%20sacks/index.html>